

Message Text

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 OECD PARIS 20927

DEPT PASS OE/HEW FOR LEESTMA; NIE FOR DR. HODGKINSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SEDU, OECD

SUBJECT: FUTURE OF OECD EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

CONSIDERED BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

REFS: A) STATE 172087; B) STATE 161608; C(C(76)120

1. SUMMARY - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RESUMED DEBATE OF FUTURE EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES ON JULY 13. EXCOMM AGREED TO REVISE PARAS F AND G OF DRAFT ENTRY CONTAINED IN C(76)120 TO CALL FOR EXPLORATORY SECRETARIAT STUDY OF ISSUES IN CONSULTATION WITH INTERESTED DELS, LEAVING QUESTION OF HOW TO PROCEED BEYOND THAT STUDY OPEN FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION. REVISED DRAFT ENTRY NOW GOES TO COUNCIL JULY 20 FOR APPROVAL. END SUMMARY.

2. EXCOMM CHAIRMAN (UK) REMINDED GROUP THAT AT JULY 1 MEETING US DEL HAD REQUESTED THAT DISCUSSION OF C(76)120 BE DEFERRED BECAUSE OF (A) LATE ARRIVAL OF DOCUMENTS, AND (B) FACT THAT RELEVANT DOCUMENTS WERE BEING CONSIDERED BY INTER-AGENCY GROUP IN WASHINGTON (SEE PARA 2 REF B). MSA DIRECTORATE HEAD GASS GAVE BRIEF OVERVIEW CONTENTS OF C(76)120, EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN EDUCATION FIELD SINCE NATIONS CAN JOINTLY EXPLORE NEW POLICIES FOR MAJOR COMMON PROBLEMS. GASS NOTED THAT INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION IN EDUCATION POLICY DIFFERS FROM THAT OF TRADE OR MONETARY POLICY SINCE THERE IS NO "INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM." AND THAT, THEREFORE, EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

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TION SYSTEM." AND THAT, THEREFORE, EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

SHOULD BE LOOKED UPON AS VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR GOVERNMENTS TO EXPLORE JOINTLY FOR NEW IDEAS FOR USE IN THEIR NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.

3. VIRTUALLY ALL DELS EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR 5-YEAR

EXTENSION OF MANDATE, IMPROVED PROJECT SELECTIVITY AND CONCENTRATION, AND CLOSER COORDINATION BETWEEN CERl AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE. EXCOMM AGREED WITH UK PROPOSED TEXTUAL CHANGE THAT ANNUAL JOINT MEETINGS OF TWO BODIES OCCUR ONLY "IF NECESSARY". (SEE PARA I REF C). AUSTRIAN REP SOUGHT CLARIFICATION OF ARTICLE 1 OF ANNEX III TO C(76)120 WHICH READS IN PART: "COUNCIL SHALL FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS...ADOPT EACH YEAR A PROGRAM ON EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION". CHAIR RESPONDED THAT THIS WAS ESSENTIALLY EDITORIAL MATTER WHICH CLEAR TEXT WOULD RESOLVE. NETHERLANDS DEL STATED THAT RE PARA H, REF C, NOMINATIONS TO CERl GB WILL REMAIN RESPONSIBILITY OF GON RATHER THAN SEC GEN, BUT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE NEED FOR BALANCE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND NATIONAL EXPERTS. SECRETARIAT AFFIRMED THAT SEC GEN WOULD MAKE SUCH NOMINATIONS ON THE BASIS OF CONSULTATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTS. NORWEGIAN DEL UNDERSCORED IMPORTANCE OF OECD EDUCATIONAL WORK ESPECIALLY THAT RELATING TO YOUTH AND EMPLOYMENT. GERMAN DEL EXPRESSED DESIRE TO DISCUSS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM IN RELATION TO OVERALL OECD ACTIVITIES AND PRIORITIES. (HE OBSERVED THAT NONE OF AGREEMENTS ARRIVED AT DURING SESSION WOULD BE BINDING ON BUDGET DISCUSSIONS. IN THIS, CHAIR CONCURRED.)

4. ASKED FOR SUBSTANTIVE COMMENTS HE HAD PROMISED AT LAST EXCOMM MEETING, US DEL (KATZ) NOTED THAT INSTRUCTIONS HE HAD RECEIVED WERE PURELY PROCEDURAL AND REFERRED ONLY TO PROPOSED SECRETARIAT EXAMINATION OF FUTURE MODALITIES IN SOCIAL INNOVATION FIELD. HE THEN OUTLINED PROCEDURAL SCENARIO CONTAINED IN REF A, EMPHASIZING THAT WASHINGTON WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT THERE BE CONSULTATION WITH CAPITALS AT EARLY STAGE IN PROCESS. KATZ NOTED PARAS F AND G OF ANNEX II, UNCLASSIFIED

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REF C WERE CONFUSING AND ASKED IF THEY WERE NECESSARY FOR TASK AT HAND, WHICH WAS TO APPROVE MANDATE OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND CERl. HE ADDED THAT USG COULD NOT AGREE TO THE VAGUE "ARRANGEMENTS" IN PARA F, AND ASKED WHEN "CONSULTATIONS" WITH INTERESTED DELEGATIONS MENTIONED IN PARA G WOULD OCCUR. GENERAL DEBATE THEN FOLLOWED IN WHICH SEVERAL DELS REGISTERED OPPOSITION TO ENGAGING IN DETAILED PROCEDURAL DISCUSSION AT THIS STAGE

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AND STRESSED THAT FIRST TASK WAS FOR SECRETARIAT TO DEFINE AND OUTLINE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WITH RESPECT TO INNOVATION WHICH NEED TO BE CONSIDERED. THERE WAS AGREEMENT THAT SECRETARIAT SHOULD DELINEATE ISSUES IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH INTERESTED DELS, WHO WOULD PROBABLY WISH TO CONSULT WITH CAPITALS, AND THAT NO DECISIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN ON PROCEDURES FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION UNTIL SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WERE DEFINED. US DEL REITERATED THAT ARRANGEMENTS MUST ALLOW FOR FULL ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY CAPITALS.

5. BASED ON FOREGOING DISCUSSION, EXCOMM AGREED TO MODIFY PARAS F AND G OF ANNEX II TO C(76)120 TO CALL FOR EXPLORATORY SECRETARIAT STUDY IN CONSULTATION WITH INTERESTED DELS AND TO LEAVE QUESTION OF HOW TO PROCEED BEYOND THAT STUDY OPEN FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION.

PARAS F AND G NOW READ AS FOLLOWS:

(F) NOTED THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S SUGGESTIONS IN HIS NOTE C(76)120 FOR THE NEED TO CONSIDER FURTHER THE FUTURE REQUIREMENTS FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL INNOVATION, INVOLVING IN PARTICULAR, EDUCATION, MANPOWER, SOCIAL AND SCIENCE POLICIES AND RELEVANT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT;

(G) REQUESTED THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO EXPLORE THE MATTER FURTHER IN CONSULTATION WITH INTERESTED DELEGATIONS AND MAKE PROPOSALS TO THE COUNCIL AS APPROPRIATE.

6. REVISED C(76)120 GOES BEFORE COUNCIL FOR FINAL
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APPROVAL JULY 20. UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED BY COB
JULY 19, US WILL APPROVE DRAFT ENTRY AS REVISED BY
EXCOMM.
KATZ

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